

# THE MAYOR'S REPORT

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Photo taken during the 2017 Shop-with-a-Cop Event - Sunday, December 16, 2017

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## Tuesday, January 16, 2018

# Mayor Takisha James December Report

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## Updates

### **Important Notice: MARYLAND'S NEW SMOKE ALARM LAW WENT INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2018**

1. A new law went into effect on January 1, 2018. This Maryland Law states a smoke alarm shall be present and working on every level of your home. Once your current 9-volt battery powered alarm reaches its 10-year life span than it shall be replaced with a 10-year, sealed long life battery, with hush feature smoke alarm. If you have questions or need to request a smoke detector please contact the Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department at (301) 864-4415 or you may call the Prince George's County Fire Department at (301) 583-1830. See Attachment #1 for more information.

### **2. Pepco update**

On January 5, 2018 Pepco and Delmarva Power announced they will file plans to provide annual tax savings to 770,000 electric customers in Maryland with the Maryland Public Service Commission in early February. They credit this filing to the reduction in corporate taxes as a result of the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was signed into law on December 22, 2017. See attachment #2 for further details.

### **3. Maglev Follow Up**

The Bladensburg Community Maglev Meeting is confirmed for January 27, 2018 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Given the potential impact our local community, it's been unfortunate we haven't had the project organizers come to Bladensburg to present the project to residents until now. There are a number of Maglev opposition events and meetings taking place around the same time of the Bladensburg meeting, so we will use our meeting to get an in-depth presentation on the project from Kisha Brown (Director, Community & External Affairs, Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail) and Steve Cassard, (Maryland Economic Development Corporation) to present on the NEPA process. I've been advised Mr. Cassard has done well serving as a neutral presenter on behalf of the Maryland Transportation Administration. Following the presentations we will allow time for questions from the audience. Please take time to read up on the materials available online about this project and come prepared to address them to the individuals involved in this project.

*Note:* NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This Act created the process that federal agencies follow to analyze the potential consequences of proposed projects on the human environment, engage the public, and document the analysis to ensure informed decision making. NEPA is an "umbrella" law that encourages integrated compliance with other environmental laws. Compliance with NEPA will include preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be made available for public review and comment.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Continue to reach out to local elected officials to invite them and their communities to the meeting.

## Meetings & Events

### 1. Assisted the COPS Unit with Delivery of Christmas Baskets – December 14, 2017

PFC Brown organized the distribution of Christmas baskets for less fortunate residents during the month of December. Debi Sandlin (Town Administrator), Chi-Chi Dureke (Marketing Coordinator), and I joined PFC Brown for the distribution of some of the baskets on Thursday, December 14. The residents that we provided baskets to expressed tremendous gratitude to the town.

### 2. The Annual Bladensburg Shop-with-a-Cop Event was held – December 17, 2017

The Town of Bladensburg held another hugely successful Shop-With-A-Cop event for the fourth year in a row. We are grateful to PFC Brown for doing an outstanding job of organizing this event and working with volunteers to host 30 students for a light breakfast with local police officers, a shopping spree at Walmart, followed by lunch at Three Brothers Restaurant. We received media coverage on the event from local news stations. This event proved to be a great opportunity to continue building positive relationships with students and police officers in the community.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to everyone who participated in this wonderful event, including Town of Bladensburg staff members, our corporate partners (Walmart, DC Tours, Ernest Maier, and Three Brothers); the police officers (from Bladensburg, Baltimore, Edmonston, Cottage City, & Colmar Manor); police cadets from the Anne Arundel Community College; Principal Michelle Marek of Port Towns Elementary; and the first gentleman of Bladensburg, former mayor Walter L. James, Jr.!

### 3. Gang Prevention Community Resource Meeting at Rogers Heights Elementary School - December 21, 2017

The meeting was held to brief community stakeholders on the rise of gang activity among elementary schools in the Port Towns Community. Principle Bottoms began the meeting with a discussion on the potential causes for this behavior; then moved the discussion into a collective brainstorming session on possible solutions and resources that can be implemented to stop this issue from growing as well as identifying how to reach at-risk students with alternative options. The meeting scribes will organize the notes from the discussion, and share them with the smaller task force who will take the lead in developing an action plan. Following that we will reconvene the larger group of stakeholders to introduce the plan and assign volunteers/organizations specific action items from the plan to follow-up on.

**REMINDER:** As a reminder from the December Council Meeting, Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization (CKAR) currently is working on the tree canopy project. Homeowners should complete the form included as part of attachment #3.

### Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Bladensburg Community Maglev Meeting
  - January 27, 2018 12:00 – 1:30 PM at the Bladensburg Community Center, 4500 57th Ave, Bladensburg, MD 20710
- Town of Bladensburg Annual Black History Month Program
  - February 10, 2018 12:00 – 2:00 PM at the Bladensburg Community Center, 4500 57th Ave, Bladensburg, MD 20710
- Next Mayor and Council Meeting – Monday, February 12, 2018
  - Work Session at 5:30PM / Televised Council Meeting at 7:00PM at Town Hall
- Save the Date for the District 47 Night in Annapolis on Monday, February 12 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM